

The Election Connection

September 2025

The new Statewide Election Judge application is a work in progress!

Once finalized, this application must be completed by all wishing to serve.

Additional required forms will be available in early 2026, including the IRS Form W-4, Maryland Form MW-507, the Oath of an Election Judge, and the Rules of Security Behavior.

All interested in serving are reminded that though completion of all forms is required to be considered as an Election Judge, there is no guarantee that all those interested will be assigned to serve.



Talbot County Board of Elections
215 Bay Street, Suite 7
Easton, MD 21601

IMPORTANT DATES & OFFICE CLOSURES

The office will be closed:

09/01/25- Labor Day

11/27/25- Thanksgiving Day

10/13/25- Columbus Day

11/28/25- American Indian

11/11/25- Veterans' Day

Heritage Day



2026 Gubernatorial Primary Early Voting

June 11-18, 2026

Election Day June 23, 2026

2026 Gubernatorial General

Early Voting

October 22-29, 2026

Election Day

November 3, 2026

Phone: 410-770-8099
www.talbotcountymd.gov/election_board
Email: Talbot.Elections@maryland.gov



TRAINING TOOL BOX

The number one training tool you will receive when you attend Election Judge training is your Election Judge Manual. This manual is packed full of information! It includes all of the important topics including Security Rules & Awareness, Voters with Disabilities and Cross-Cultural Communication, People and Activities in the Polling Place, and chapters for each type of Election Judge, including Chief Judges, Check-in Judges, Provisional Judges, and Voting Judges. The manual also includes basic information about equipment used in the polling place.



“Everyone must take time to sit and watch the leaves turn.”
—*Elizabeth Lawrence*

THE STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS CONTINUES TO MONITOR THE PRESIDENT’S EXECUTIVE ORDERS PERTAINING TO ELECTIONS. VISIT WWW.ELECTIONS.MARYLAND.GOV AND CLICK ON THE QUICK LINK: PRESS ROOM TO STAY INFORMED.

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Election Judge Alphabet

A	Awesome & amazing
B	Benefit our voters
C	Courteous
D	Diligent & dependable
E	Eager
F	Faithful & fabulous
G	Generous with their time
H	Happy to assist
I	Incredible
J	Just & joyful
K	Knowledgeable
L	Loyal
M	Meticulous
N	Network of great people
O	Observant
P	Patient
Q	Quick to assist
R	Reliable
S	Safe & skillful
T	Talented
U	Unbeatable
V	Very important
W	Welcoming & warm-hearted
X	eXcellent & eXuberant
Y	Yearn to do a great job
Z	Zealous

We appreciate everyone
who served as an Election
Judge in the past and all
who wish to serve in 2026!



DIS-SPELLING THOSE RUMORS!

DID YOU KNOW THAT THE MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS IS COMMITTED TO BEING YOUR TRUSTED SOURCE OF ELECTION INFORMATION? VISIT

[HTTPS://ELECTIONS.MARYLAND.GOV/PRESS_ROOM/RUMOR_CONTROL.HTML](https://elections.maryland.gov/press_room/rumor_control.html)

HERE YOU WILL FIND ACCURATE INFORMATION ON A VARIETY OF ELECTION RELATED TOPICS. THERE ALSO IS A LINK WHERE YOU CAN REPORT ELECTION DIS/MISINFORMATION AND SBE WILL CORRECT THE RECORD.

ELECTION DIS/MISINFORMATION IS INCORRECT OR MISLEADING INFORMATION REGARDING THE TIME, PLACE, OR MANNER OF AN ELECTION, ELECTION RESULTS, OR VOTING RIGHTS.

FROM THE SBE WEBSITE:

RUMOR: The ballot marking device is flipping votes.

FACT: The ballot marking device is not intended to tabulate ballot results. It is simply a device that assists voters who choose not to mark their ballot by hand with a pencil, but instead choose to mark their ballot electronically. The ballot marking device offers voters 3 opportunities to review their selections before casting their votes in the scanning unit to be tabulated. They should review their selections before moving to the next contest, again at the summary screen after making selections for each contest and a third time after it is printed. If there are any errors that occur before it is printed, the voter can be provided with instructions on how to change their selection. If there are any errors that occur after it is printed, the voter can alert an election judge. The election judge can give them a new ballot and the old one will be spoiled. Once the ballot is cast in the scanning unit, where it is tabulated, there is no way to redo a ballot.

“The key to success is to trust the process, stay focused, and never lose sight of your goals.”

- Les Brown

Motivational Speaker & Author

A Little Trivia Please...

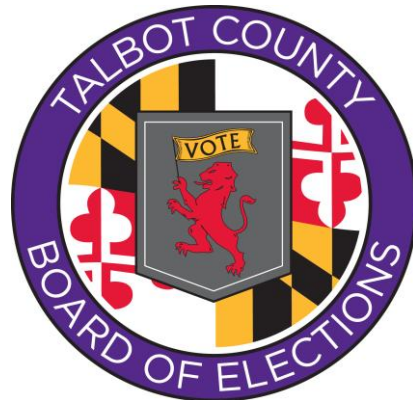
Labor Day is the unofficial end of Hot Dog season. The National Hot Dog and Sausage Council says that between Memorial Day and Labor Day, Americans will eat 7 billion hot dogs.

(Source: constitutioncenter.org)



Talbot County Board of Elections staff will be at the
Talbot County Community Resource Expo
on 10/18/2025 from 10 am- 1 pm at Easton Elementary.
Stop by and see us!

Our New Logos!



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Election Judges.... Challengers and Watchers.... What's the Difference?

ELECTION JUDGE QUALIFICATIONS You must be	TYPES OF JOBS	TRAINING & COMPENSATION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Age 16 years or older, with parent permission ▪ A registered voter in Maryland ▪ Physically & mentally able to work a 15-hour (or more) day ▪ Willing to work outside of your home precinct ▪ Able to sit &/or stand for extended periods ▪ Able to speak, read, and write English 	<p><u>CHIEF</u>- an experienced judge serving as a polling place supervisor. Each polling place is staffed with 2 Chief Judges of opposite party affiliations.</p> <p><u>PROVISIONAL/SDR</u>- a judge serving to assist new voters and provisional voters. These judges work closely with Chief Judges.</p> <p><u>CHECK IN</u>- a judge using the electronic pollbook to process the voter quickly & correctly. These judges are the first to come in contact with voters as they begin their voting experience.</p> <p><u>VOTING</u>- a judge who provides a correct ballot, directs the voter through the voting process, and ensures the voter inserts the ballot into the scanner.</p> <p><u>STANDBY</u>- a judge who is ON CALL to fill in should there be any unexpected judge vacancies. This judge must be available to go to any precinct and may be called with short notice.</p>	<p>You must serve as an Election Judge in order to be paid for training.</p> <p>Maryland law requires all Election Judges to participate in training. These sessions may be in person and online. Provided that you serve as an Election Judge on Election Day, you will be paid \$100 for completing the training requirement. (You will be paid \$50 for training if you work only during Early Voting.)</p> <p>Compensation for working for EACH day served:</p> <p>Chiefs- \$300 Provisional/SDR- \$300 Check-in- \$250 Voting- \$250 Stand-by- \$100 (unless you are unavailable if called). If called & you work, you would be paid at the rates listed above.</p> <p>Legislation awards an additional \$100 per day served to RETURNING JUDGES. RETURNING JUDGES are judges who worked in the previous 2024 Election Cycle as defined in 2025 regulations (HB0586)</p>

In Talbot County, Election Judges are trained and assigned by the Talbot County Local Board of Elections.

The LBE aims to have approximately 135 individuals serving in the 2026 Election Cycle.

ACCREDITED CHALLENGERS & WATCHERS

- Must be a registered voter in Maryland
- Must have a Challenger and Watcher Certificate, with an original signature
- Are encouraged to observe an Election Judge training
- Are designated by SBE, a LBE, a Candidate who has filed a Certificate of Candidacy, a Recognized Political Party, or any other group of voters supporting or opposing a candidate, principle, or proposition on the ballot.
- Challengers & Watchers do not have to stay at the polling place the entire day

IMPORTANT REMINDERS ABOUT CHALLENGERS & WATCHERS

- Challengers and watchers cannot act as voter advocates. They cannot attempt to exercise political influence while in the polling place.
- Challengers and watchers do not engage in conversations with Election Judges; their only interaction should be with the CHIEF JUDGES.
- Challengers & Watchers will be removed if they engage in prohibited activities.

For more information visit the Maryland State Board of Election's website

https://elections.maryland.gov/get_involved/challenger_watcher.html



REMINDER

The Talbot County Board of Elections is recruiting Election Judges in an effort to ensure that our polling places are as party balanced as possible. In addition to assigning Election Judges at each polling place, we attempt to recruit a pool of STAND-BY Judges to fill unexpected vacancies and you may be asked to serve in this capacity if necessary. Also, while we try to assign Election Judges to their home polling places, this often is not possible. Election Judges may be asked to work at any polling place in Talbot County.

Interest in serving as an Election Judge during the 2026 Election Cycle may exceed our need. If you are not assigned, your information will be held for the next Election Cycle.

KEEP YOUR INFORMATION UP TO DATE

Be sure to email us at Talbot.elections@maryland.gov if you move or change your contact information, especially your email address!

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